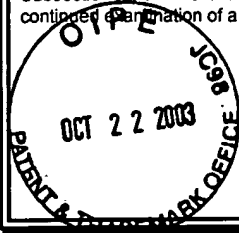


RCE / 2653

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.



| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 09/446,981 |
| Filing Date | December 30, 1999 |
| First Named Inventor | Masato Huma |
| Group Art Unit | 2653 |
| Name of Examiner | Tran, Thang V. |
| Attorney Docket No. | 991504 |

#19
10.31.03

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat Office (April 11, 2000) which established RCE practice.

1.

Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on June 2, 2003 & August 25, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☐ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2003

Technology Center 2600

2.

Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other

3. The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

Fees

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$770.00 is enclosed.

10/23/2003 HDENESS1 00000005 09446981

01 FC:1801

770.00 OP

**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

PAGE 2

38834

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.

991504

SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name **Michael N. Lau**

Registration No. **39,479** (atty/agent)

Signature



Date **October 22, 2003**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name

Signature

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2003

Technology Center 2600